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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who is the strength of our lives, let us live to tell of Your wondrous work. How magnificent are Your acts, O Lord. How deep are all Your thoughts.

Bless our lawmakers. Empower them to endure the challenges of these times. Give them a humility that will make them willing to decrease, so that Your Spirit may increase in their lives. Lord, renew their minds with truth and sharpen their skills in each important area of living. Bless the members of their staffs, who labor so faithfully for freedom's cause.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me begin by welcoming a true friend to the United States, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who will be visiting the Capitol later today. Over the years our nations have built a

strong and enduring relationship—a relationship grounded in common values like democracy and individual freedom, a relationship guided by a clear-eyed view of the threats that face us.

This relationship has grown closer and more valuable as terrorism has become a constant threat to our homeland—something the Israelis have known, literally, for decades and as Iran has sought to expand its sphere of influence in an effort to remake the Middle East. I value our relationship greatly. I know President Trump does as well.

Now is the time to strengthen and affirm this important partnership as we move on from 8 years of often needless tension, as we turn the page on an administration that chose as one of its last actions in office to abandon our ally Israel, and in so doing to undermine any semblance of a peace process by encouraging the Palestinians to forego direct negotiations.

This afternoon I will reiterate to the Prime Minister my determination, which I know many in Congress share, to work with our new administration and underline America's commitment to achieving peace with the Palestinians through a negotiated settlement in a way that protects Israel's vital national security interests.

Our nations face many common threats. Strengthening this relationship makes each of us safer. I hope colleagues will join me in extending a warm welcome to Prime Minister Netanyahu on his visit to the Capitol later today.

### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has been acting to provide relief from harmful regulations by utilizing the Congressional Review Act, which provides the legislative tools needed to repeal them.

I am pleased to report that just yesterday the President signed the first of several regulation-relief resolutions we hope to send him. Later this week, he will sign a second resolution—a resolution identical to the one I sponsored in the Senate that can bring relief to thousands of mining families in Kentucky and across the country by overturning the problematic stream buffer regulation.

Today, we will send him another one. In a few minutes we will vote to protect the constitutional rights of Americans with disabilities. The resolution will provide relief from an overly broad and legally deficient regulation that threatens the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans with disabilities.

Specifically, in the waning days of the Obama administration, the Social Security Administration issued a rule that the ACLU and disability groups across the country oppose because it unfairly treats many Americans with disabilities.

Under this rule, the Social Security Administration must report to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System anyone who receives benefits for certain disabilities and whom the Social Security Administration believes needs a representative payee to help manage these benefits. As a result of being included on this list, many disabled Social Security beneficiaries are barred from lawfully purchasing a firearm, even though there has been no adjudication that the beneficiary is "mentally defective," which is the standard under both the Gun Control Act of 1968 and the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 for being barred from buying a firearm.

Numerous disability rights groups oppose the regulation as unfairly stigmatizing the disabled. They agree with us on the need to stop the regulation. The substantive problem with the regulation is compounded, the groups note, by "the absence of any meaningful due

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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